

Nonetheless, we have far to go. Less than half of African-American families own their own homes and they are twice as likely to be denied mortgages as whites. While the unemployment rate for whites is 5 percent, the black unemployment rate is 10 percent. African-Americans are three times more likely to be arrested as whites and on average serve longer sentences than whites. Crime, drugs, and poverty are rampant in many minority communities. Many young African-Americans are disillusioned, frustrated, and feel powerless in their own country.

The challenges African-Americans are facing today are rooted in the system of slavery. After emancipation, segregation, a system of continued oppression, was imposed which maintained the disparities between blacks and whites. It fueled the animosities, resentments, and discrimination that would separate and divide this country. We are still grappling with the effects of slavery, racism, and discrimination. We must do more to undo the wrongs of that evil institution.

On this Juneteenth, let this great country come together to reflect on the role slavery has played in our system today.

A TRIBUTE TO WINSTON P.
THOMPSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a distinguished and accomplished Brooklynite, Winston P. Thompson. It is an honor to represent Mr. Thompson in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to such an exemplary citizen.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Thompson worked diligently and attained his undergraduate and graduate degrees from St. Francis College and Pace University. His work experience is impressive—from being employed as an auditing officer for Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, a Wall Street Investment Banking firm, for two years, and a big five international accounting and consulting firm, where he remained for five years.

Over the past 20 years, he has demonstrated deep devotion and civic commitment as a CPA and Financial Planner by offering tax and financial services to the Brooklyn community. In addition, he is the founder, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Thompson & Company, a Certified Public Accounting and Consulting firm based in Downtown Brooklyn, which recently enjoyed its twentieth year in operation.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the achievements and service of Mr. Thompson. He continues to offer his talents and services for the betterment of the community through his involvement in several community activities and organizations, particularly as a Member of the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce, the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and the Bedford Stuyvesant Real Estate Board.

Mr. Speaker, may our country continue to benefit from the civic actions of committed and talented individuals such as Winston P. Thompson.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT L.
PANEK

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2005

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Mr. Robert L. Panek, who retired from the Senior Executive Service, in the Department of the Navy, on June 3rd, 2005. Mr. Panek's long and highly distinguished career spans nearly 34 years of Federal Service and eclipses 27 years of dedicated service in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller).

A native of Oceanside, New York, Mr. Panek received a Bachelor of Science degree, a Naval Reserve commission, and a Merchant Marine Third Officer's license from the Maritime College of the State University of New York, before entering Federal Service in 1971.

Excelling as a management intern with the Naval Ordnance Systems Command, budget analyst in the Anti-Submarine Warfare Systems Project Office, financial management advisor to the Deputy Chief of Naval Material, and budget analyst/branch head in the Department of the Navy (DoN) Budget Policy and Procedures Directorate, Mr. Panek was appointed to the Senior Executive Service (SES) in July 1986. As a SES officer, his breadth of responsibilities grew to encompass nearly every facet of the DoN budget to include setting policies and procedures for the formulation and execution of the DoN budget; directing DoN budget operations; and overseeing Investment, Research & Development, Construction, and Acquisition accounts. In December 1994, Mr. Panek's exemplary career culminated in his selection as the Associate Director, Office of Budget with responsibility for the formulation, presentation and execution of the DoN budget. In this position he achieved the grade of Senior Executive Service, Level 6 and also served as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller).

Mr. Panek's devotion to duty, financial acumen, and commitment to the Navy-Marine Corps Team have made our Nation safer and our Navy and Marine Corps Stronger. He has been awarded numerous performance awards and citations throughout his career to include the Department of the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award in December 1988, the Presidential Meritorious Rank Award in 1993, and the Department of the Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award in 2001. His selflessness, exemplary conduct, and commitment to a cause greater than himself is memorialized in his parting email to his shipmates in the Department of the Navy in which he reminded them—"Finally, please always, always remember that we do this for our Sailors and Marines that go in harm's way."

It is fitting and altogether appropriate to recognize Mr. Panek's contributions to the DoN at the same time that we consider the Fiscal Year 2006 Defense Appropriations Act. Our Nation and the Department of the Navy have been made better through the talent and dedication of Mr. Robert L. Panek. I know all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Bob, his wife Susan, and their two daughters, on the completion of an outstanding career. While his

service to our Nation will be missed, he has left a legacy of high standards and superbly trained professionals in his wake. We wish him fair winds and following seas!

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2862) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Moran amendment to restrict the exportation of 50 caliber sniper rifles.

This weapon was not built for hobbies or marksmanship, but for military purposes. According to its original patent filing, it was designed to destroy aircraft at long range, beyond security perimeters.

Semi-automatic versions of these guns can fire as many as ten rounds in one minute at a plane, but it only takes one accurate hit to the fuselage, engine or cockpit to cause disaster.

There are even two published books on the market that explain how to use this sniper weapon to attack planes and helicopters.

All this may be why the conservative Rand Corporation, in a 1995 report, found the 50 caliber sniper rifle to be a serious threat to U.S. military air bases.

Today, nine years after that report and three and a half years after 9/11, these terrorist weapons remain under extremely loose regulation.

They are as easy to purchase as a regular rifle and even easier to purchase than a hand gun and yet we know terrorists and criminal organizations have sought them.

According to the Violence Policy Center, Al Qaeda has at least 25, the Church Universal and Triumphant has at least 10, the IRA has 2, and the Militia Training Camp in Canada has 1.

This weapon not only threatens American planes and airports, but also chemical and refinery plants.

The military's top choice of ammunition for the 50 caliber is not only armor-piercing, but also explosive and incendiary—meaning it causes fire.

That type of ammunition could easily cause a huge disaster.

We should protect ourselves and pass the Moran Amendment.

A TRIBUTE TO DECOSTA HEADLEY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a Brooklynite and distinguished entrepreneur, DeCosta Headley. It is an honor

to represent Mr. Headley in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to such an outstanding leader.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Headley obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Behavioral Science from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. He became a successful entrepreneur, serving as the president of Diversified Inch By Inch, Inc., one of the city's leading African-American general contracting firms. In this position, Mr. Headley demonstrated deep commitment to the community through several development projects that his company undertook, including the construction of local medical and dental facilities for Oxford Health Plans, Brookdale Hospital & Medical Center, and Interfaith Medical Center, and new housing, including a multi-level senior citizens apartment complex for Berean Missionary Baptist Church. Mr. Headley launched efforts of urban renewal by assisting in the development of senior citizen housing and youth centers for communities in need across the five boroughs.

Mr. Headley has exhibited the qualities of an exemplary community leader in his service as District Leader for the 40th Assembly District in the East New York section of Kings County. During his term, he remained dedicated to improving the quality of life for his constituents by continuously engaging in initiatives aimed at expanding college scholarships, employment opportunities, affordable housing, public assistance services, and social services, including senior citizen centers that offer hot meals, transportation, and access to basic health care services. In addition, he remained actively involved on various local community and planning boards, founded the community's first Local Development Corporation along with the Federation of Block Associations for East New York, and established the Federation of Addiction Agencies that offers a drug-free treatment program in East New York and Brownsville. Currently, Mr. Headley enormously contributes to the political sector of the community by successfully managing the campaigns of candidates running for positions in the city, state, and federal levels of government.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the remarkable achievements and selfless service of Mr. Headley as he continues to benevolently extend his talents and services for the betterment of the community.

Mr. Speaker, may our country continue to benefit from the civic actions of committed and laudable community leaders such as Mr. DeCosta Headley.

COMMENDING JACK DILLENBURG FOR EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the exemplary public service of Jack Dillenburg, a resident of the town of Arkwright in Chautauqua County, upon the occasion of his recognition as the 2005 Chautauqua County Democrat of the Year.

Jack's dedication to public service has been manifest, and his commitment to the residents of Chautauqua County has been outstanding.

Jack served as an appointed member of New York State Assemblyman Rolland Kidder's staff from 1976 until 1982.

During that time Jack continued to work very hard for his constituents back home. In 1975 Jack was elected to the Forestville Village Board of Trustees where he served until 1977 when he was elected mayor.

In 1980 Jack began a four-term streak as a member of the Chautauqua County legislature. During his time as a legislator, Jack's leadership and consensus building skills led him to be chosen by his colleagues to be both the majority leader and the minority leader.

The year 1992 ushered in six terms as the Arkwright Town Supervisor where there is no doubt that he did all he could to better the community.

Over 20 years later Jack decided to hang up his hat as an elected official and in 1998 he began a 5-year duty as the clerk of the Chautauqua County legislature; a responsibility he was well suited to fill following his years of experience in the legislature.

In addition to all of these outstanding achievements in public service, Jack still gave his all and served as the town of Arkwright's Democratic Chair for 27 years.

Mr. Dillenburg deserves recognition and congratulations for the vast contributions he has made over the last three decades, not just to the Democratic Party in general, but to the people of his community, his county and to all of western New York. Chautauqua County is a better place because of Jack Dillenburg's commitment to public service, and I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to have an opportunity to honor him today.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JOHN PEABODY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to recognize Colonel John Peabody who has served our Nation's Army with distinction for over 25 years. He will shortly be leaving his current post at the Pentagon and transferring to the State of Hawaii.

Colonel Peabody is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. John continued his education through the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College, where he earned his Master's Degree in Strategic Studies. He also has earned degrees from El Colegio de Mexico and Howard University.

Colonel Peabody has field proven leadership capabilities and an exemplary warrior ethos. He was first assigned to the 193rd Infantry Brigade in Panama where he served as a Sapper Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, and Aide-de-Camp. Later, he served as the Logistics Support Command Engineer, Somalia. He also was the Political-Military Division Chief of the J5, US Southern Command in Panama. During Operation Iraqi Freedom he commanded the 3rd Infantry Division's Engineer Brigade totaling over 3,000 engineers with ten attached units. Currently, he is assigned to the Army's Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison, where he is the Programs Division Chief.

Colonel Peabody is a model soldier and his many awards and commendations stand as testimony to that. His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, Joint Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service and Expeditionary Medals, the Presidential Unit Citation, Master Parachutist Badge, and Ranger Tab.

I know that the members of Congress will join me in honoring Colonel John Peabody and wishing his family and him all the best in the years to come.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2862) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I continue to be concerned about some of the funding cuts in this bill, but am heartened by the Committee's rejection of the President's proposal to eliminate Community Development Block Grants and the passage of the Sanders amendment that rolls back some of the most egregious components of the PATRIOT Act. While I am troubled by the lack of funding for important programs such as community policing and public broadcasting, the final version of the bill reflected significant improvements from the Bush administration's recommendations. Despite my initial opposition, when it came time to vote, I felt the improvements made to the bill warranted my support.

TRIBUTE TO VINCENT JOHNSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a Brooklynite and distinguished lawyer, Vincent Johnson. It is an honor to represent Mr. Johnson in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to such an outstanding leader.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Johnson obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brooklyn College and a Juris Doctor degree at St. John's University School of Law. Before completing his undergraduate studies, Mr. Johnson dedicated four years of service to the United States Air Force, where he rose to the rank of Airman first class and was assigned to the Scott Air Force Base in Belleville, Illinois and Tachikawa Air Force Base in Japan.

Mr. Johnson became an associate in the Admiralty Law firm of Fields & Rosen upon graduating from St. John's University School of Law, and was appointed an assistant District Attorney in the Kings County District Attorney's office, where he generously devoted